REMARKS

Claims 25 and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,359,636) in view of LeBrat et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,339,166) and Schuler (U.S. Patent No. 5,517,320).

Eastty et al. discloses an audio processing apparatus having an audio processor operable to apply audio processing operations to two or more input audio channels. User-operable adjustment controls are used to adjust the processing parameters associated with the audio processing operations. The controls include a touch-sensitive display screen 10 and a touch-fader panel 30, which has a fixed position in relation to the screen.

LeBrat et al. discloses a video analysis system for editing an edited broadcast televised program, which is a succesSon of images of order k, that can be used for post-production techniques. The system includes a circuit for measuring the time variance of the composition of the images, establishing, time-wise, the composition of the images to establish an image difference signal and scenic-activity parameters of the broadcast program for a group of at least two successive images in order of k-1, k. LaBrat et al. does not disclose or suggest controls that move in relation to the screen.

Schuler discloses a video composition apparatus and method that selects segments from image source material stored on a storage media, and denotes serially connected sequences to thereby form a composition sequence. The video composition apparatus includes a manual control panel 70, a control wheels 74 and 76, and display screens 42, 44, 46...66. As shown for example in Fig. 1, the control wheels 74 and 76 are positioned away from the display screen 42, 44, 46...66, and the wheels 74 and 76 are fixed in relation to the screens.

Neither Eastty et al., LeBrat et al. nor Schuler disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, at least control elements "wherein the at least two operating elements are movable from a first of the at least two fields to a second of the at least two fields on the screen, and the at least two operating elements are capable of adjusting the values displayed in the first of the at least two fields only when positioned adjacent to the first of the at least two fields, and capable of adjusting the second of the at least two fields only when positioned

adjacent to the second of the at least two fields", as recited in claims 25 as amended. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 25 be withdrawn.

Claims 27-30 depend from claim 25 and therefore include all of the features of claim 25 plus additional features. For at least the reason discussed above with regard to claim 25, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to these claims also be withdrawn.

Claims 11-16 and 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty et al. in view of Bergman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,859,631) and Schuler.

Bergman et al. discloses an apparatus front panel with a mechanical user interface in the form of a mechanically controllable regulation and setting elements on the face of the front panel. The front panel can be attached to a screen, a display or over a printed base. The front panel includes three layers 2, 4, and 6, assembled to one another and each made of transparent material such as a glass-like plastic. The layers 2, 4, and 6 are assembled by means of vacuum gluing, and 2 and 4 are alternatively manufactured in one piece. See Col. 2, l. 65 through Col. 3, l. 4. The front panel also includes a push key 8 and a rotating knob 10 bored in the layers 2 and 4. Col. 3, l. 46-48. Bergman et al. does not disclose or suggest moving the push key 8 or the knob 10 from one position to another on the screen, base or printed base.

Neither Eastty et al., nor Schuler, as discussed above, nor Bergman et al., disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, at least control elements "wherein the at least two operating elements are movable from a first of the at least two fields to a second of the at least two fields on the screen, and the at least two operating elements are capable of adjusting the values displayed in the first of the at least two fields only when positioned adjacent to the first of the at least two fields, and capable of adjusting the second of the at least two fields only when positioned adjacent to the second of the at least two fields", as recited in claims 11 as amended. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 11 be withdrawn.

Claims 12-16 and 19-24 depend from claim 11 and therefore include all of the features of claim 11 plus additional features. For at least the reason discussed above with regard to claim 11, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to these claims also be withdrawn.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty et al. and Bergman et al. and Schuler in view of Silfvast (U.S. Pat. No. 5,959,610).

Silfvast discloses a digital audio mixer panel which allows resetting of inputs for various control devices without requiring manual resetting of the input devices. In another aspect the input means is provided to selectively reassign one set of physical input devices, such a rotary knobs, to various different controlled devices. The presentation of the input devices as virtual images with position indicators allows the real input panel to remain free of resettable position indicators, and input device position to be reliably indicated with excellent resolution.

Neither Eastty et al., Bergman et al. nor Schuler, as discussed above, nor Silfvast, disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, at least control elements "wherein the at least two operating elements are movable from a first of the at least two fields to a second of the at least two fields on the screen, and the at least two operating elements are capable of adjusting the values displayed in the first of the at least two fields only when positioned adjacent to the first of the at least two fields, and capable of adjusting the second of the at least two fields only when positioned adjacent to the second of the at least two fields", as recited in claims 11 as amended. Claim 17 depends from claim 11, and therefore includes all of the features of claim 11 plus additional feature. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed with regard to claim 11, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 17 be withdrawn.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty et al. and Bergman et al. and Schuler in view of Jaeger (U.S. Pat. No. 5,786,811).

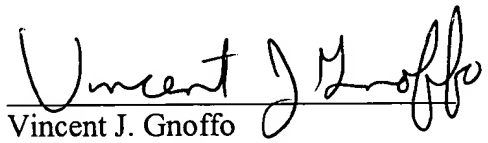
Jaeger discloses an operator and electrical circuit interfacing apparatus that has at least one circuit component which enables operator interaction with the circuit and has an electrically controlled display screen. Control means generate any of a plurality of different images at an image display area of the screen. At least a portion of the circuit component is situated at the screen within the image display area. The control means generates an image on the screen that conveys information pertaining to the operation of the circuit component.

Neither Eastty et al., Bergman et al. nor Schuler, as discussed above, nor Jaeger, disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, at least control elements "wherein the at least two operating elements are movable from a first of the at least two fields to a second of the at

least two fields on the screen, and the at least two operating elements are capable of adjusting the values displayed in the first of the at least two fields only when positioned adjacent to the first of the at least two fields, and capable of adjusting the second of the at least two fields only when positioned adjacent to the second of the at least two fields", as recited in claims 11 as amended. Claim 18 depends from claim 11, and therefore includes all of the features of claim 11 plus additional feature. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed with regard to claim 11, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 18 be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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